

METHOD OF DATA RATE EXCHANGE FOR TRANSMISSIONS ACROSS A PACKET-BASED NETWORK

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for exchanging data rate information across a packet-based network, is presented herein. In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, a first and second communication device, configured to operate as data sources, sinks, or both, communicate with a first and second gateway mechanism, respectively. The first gateway mechanism receives data rate information from the first communication device to determine a first data signaling rate between the first communication device and the first gateway mechanism. Similarly, the second gateway mechanism receives data rate information from the second communication device to determine a second data signaling rate between the second communication device and the second gateway mechanism. The first gateway forwards data rate information containing the first data signaling rate to the second gateway mechanism and the second gateway mechanism forwards data rate information containing the second data signaling rate to the first gateway mechanism. The first communication device and the first gateway mechanism determine a maximum compatible source-to-sink data rate based on the first data signaling rate and the second data signaling rate received from the second gateway mechanism and the second communication device and the second gateway mechanism determine a maximum compatible source-to-sink data rate based on the second data signaling rate and the first data signaling rate received from the first gateway mechanism.